

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**Amendments to the Claims**

Claims 1, 11, and 19 of the application has been amended to clarify that the bridging connection is positioned midstream along a bi-directional communication path.

Claim 18 has been amended to correct a typographical error, namely to remove a second occurrence of the word "to" after the word "coupled."

New claims 25 through 39 have been added. These claims correspond to original claims 3-8, 13-17, and 21-24, respectively, with claims 25, 29, 31, 35, 36, and 37 rewritten in independent form. Claims 26-28 depend from independent claim 25. Claim 30 depends from claim 29. Claims 32-34 depend from claim 31. Claims 38-39 depend from claim 37.

No new matter has been added to the claims.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 9, 10-12, and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,636,771, issued to Ochs. Applicants respectfully disagree. Applicants have amended claims 1, 11, and 19 of the present application for purposes of clarification, and submit that these claims are allowable over Ochs.

The Examiner contends that Ochs discloses a power line communications terminal and interface circuit comprising an interface section Ci. Applicants note that the reference "Ci" of Ochs refers to a capacitor, and not to an interface section as described in the present application.

The invention described in Ochs is a terminal having an interface circuit for coupling the terminal to a power line for purposes of communication over the power line. In other words, the circuit of Ochs is located at the terminus (or a point of origin, depending on the direction of the

signal) of a communication signal. The present invention is designed specifically to be utilized midstream along a communications signal, for purposes of testing or monitoring the signal with limited disruption to the signal or power loss therefrom. The fact that the Ochs invention is designed for use at the terminus (or one end) of a communications line is evident not only in the figures of Ochs, but also at various points in the specification, including Column 4, lines 54-57, in which it is stated that the interface circuit of Ochs is to be used to couple communications signals between a power line and a terminal. In the present application, on the other hand, it is clear that the invention is used *midstream* along a bi-directional communications path. This is evident from Figure 4 of the present application, wherein in the bridging connection 410 meets the bi-directional communications path 102 at a point midstream along the path. As Applicants have amended the claims 1, 11, and 19 to clarify the position of the bridging connection, Applicants submit that these claims are allowable over Ochs. Further, claims 2-10, 12-18, and 20-24 are patentable dependent claims depending from allowable base claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully requests allowance of pending claims 1-24.

New Claims

With respect to new claims 25 through 39, Applicants note that these claims correspond to original claims 3-8, 13-17, and 21-24, respectively, which the Examiner has previously stated are allowable when written in independent form.

New claim 25 is an independent claim corresponding to original claim 3, and incorporating all of the limitations thereof.

New claim 29 is an independent claim corresponding to original claim 7, and incorporating all of the limitations thereof.

New claim 31 is an independent claim corresponding to original claim 13, and incorporating all of the limitations thereof.

New claim 35 is an independent claim corresponding to original claim 17, and incorporating all of the limitations thereof.

New claim 36 is an independent claim corresponding to original claim 21, and incorporating all of the limitations thereof.

New claim 36 is an independent claim corresponding to original claim 22, and incorporating all of the limitations thereof.

New claims 26-28 depend from claim 25.

New claim 30 depends from claim 29.

New claims 32-34 depend from claim 31.

New claims 38-39 depend from claim 37.

In view of the above, Applicants submits that each of new claims 25-39 are in condition for allowance.

Applicants have provided herewith a petition for a three-month extension of time to respond to the Office Action of February 15, 2005, along with the required fee of \$1020.00. Further, Applicants have submitted a fee of \$1950.00 for claims added to the application (\$750 for 15 additional claims plus \$1200.00 for 7 additional independent claims). Thus, Applicants have submitted a total fee of \$2970.00 herewith.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that each of the claims pending in the present application, namely claims 1-39, are patentable over the cited art. Applicants respectfully request allowance of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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